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Some a 41 and 42
while were suppressed for
warfare. Founded in 1900
is highly valued on Lynx
life. Letter tells daughter
I K U.
JG
"YAGUCHI NO-WATASHI"

"Kobei the Borrower" and his comrades Juzo and Pinsuke are sitting on the kitchen floor. Hachisuke, a boatman, is talking with them.

Hachisuke: Why, folks, what has brought you three here all together?

Kobei: Well, well, we've got a certain reason, you know.

Juzo: And, is Boss at home?

Hachi: He was here just now but he's gone to the headman's.

Pinsuke: Oh, it's very unfortunate.

Kobei: What has he gone for?

Hachi: Oh, they are consulting about what to do if a Nitta refugee should come here in this village, I suppose.

And what have you got to do with him? Anything urgent?

Juzo: Oh, yes. We've come to ask a favour of him.

Kobei: We are so hard up that we've got nothing but to take the liberty of coming for his favour.

Hachi: You should have told it to me sooner, for Boss has left me these six envelopes of money for you saying that he was sure you were quite penniless. Take these envelopes with you and make a good use of them.

(Takes the envelopes out of a casket and gives them to the gamblers.)

Kobei: Much obliged.

Juzo: There are many rich persons in this world, but I know none as generous as our Boss.

Pin: How has he got such a great fortune, I wonder?

Hachi: It's because you're not clever enough that you can't get rich. "Many a mickle makes a muckle," of course, but twopence and twopence are only four pence. If you ever

wish to get rich, I shall recommend you speculation and gambling. Even they are rather dull nowadays. Well, well, there is good luck, however. General Takauchi Ashikaga, commander-in-chief of the Kamakura government, being put out by Lord Yoshioki Nitta, made Judge Eda ask our Boss to put him to death. Boss made Rokuzo make a hole in the bottom of the lord's ship and thus drown him.

He got a large sum of money as prize, of which he made a good use. This is how he made such a great fortune and came to be called a millionaire. You had better take after his cleverness than envy his good luck.

Kobei: I see. I think I shall venture on some speculation.

Juzo: Well, but we've got no ship to make a hole in. Shall we make a hole in the bottom of a plate?

Pin: Don't be so silly.

Hachi: I shall join you fellows and do my best to make some unfair plot in gambling.

Kobei: Shall we go then altogether,

Juzo: And do something,

Pin: To surprise the villagers?

Hachi: All right, all right, I'll take sides with you.

Kobei: Why, the sun is going to set.

Juzo: Shall we go to the gambling place at Yaguchi,

Pin: And do our best,

Hachi: To get a large gain?

Kobei: Let's go.

(Exeunt omnes.)

Gidayu reciting: There comes a couple of lovers walking hand in hand.

Lord Yoshimine, Escaping from the village of
Namamugi, comes near the Yaguchi ferry.

(During the song Lord Yoshimine comes into the stage,
accompanied by his sweetheart Utena, a courtesan.

Yoshimine: Well, Utena, this is the Yaguchi Ferry where my honorable
brother Lord Yoshioki lost his life. I feel resentful
when looking at the river.

Resiting: He joins his hands as if playing, while he makes a bow
before the place of his brother's death.

Yoshimine: "May his honorable spirit get out of all illusions of
life and death and may rest in peace through the mercy
of the Buddha Amida."

Reciting: He is choked with tears
while praying for his dead brother.

The courtesan Utena, also,
feels like melting into tears.

Utena: I quite sympathize with you, my lord. However, you had
better hurry home to Nitta and endeavour to revenge him
with the aid of all your honorable family.

Yoshimine: Well, but, I've heard that they won't go under
sail after the sunset. Moreover, ~~as~~ you've got a
hysterical attack. I think I shall go to the house
there and ask for a night's lodging.

Reciting: They both draw near the gate.

Yoshimine: Good evening.

Reciting: At his voice

Comes the young girl O-Fune

Running from inside.

(O-Fune comes in with a lantern in her hand.)

Fune: Aye, aye, good-evening. If you are in search of the ferry, you may go on a little more.

Yoshimine: We're travellers just passing by. I should like to ask you for a night's lodging.

Fune: Oh, no, sir. This is not an inn, but the ferryman's house.

Yoshimine: I know this is the ferryman's house. I am accompanied by a weak-legged woman so that I am late for the last boat. I really do not know what to do in this darkness. It is very rude of me, but I am afraid I must ask you for a night's lodging.

Fune: I should like to oblige you if I could, but my father is from home now and I am afraid I cannot decide on it by myself.

Reciting: So saying, she looks up at the stranger's noble-looking face.

Fune: Was it you that asked for a night's lodging?

Yoshimine: Certainly it was.

Fune: Why, sir, you are the traveller asking for a night's lodging? All right, all right. How could I refuse such a gentleman as you?

Yoshimine: Oh, I'm so much obliged.

Fune: Step in, please.

Yoshimine: Excuse me, miss.

Reciting: The girl, noticing the woman

Accompanying the noble guest, -----

(Yoshimine goes out. Utena is going to follow him,

when the girl O-Fune addresses her.)

Fune: Well, ma'am, are you his companion?

Utena: Yes, certainly.

Fune: Well, well, it cannot be helped, I suppose.

(The two guests step in with the accompaniment of samisen. O-Fune serves them tea.)

Fune: You must be much tired. You had better go to the parlour there and have a little rest.

Yoshimine: Much obliged.

Utena: This house will be tonight's lodging for us.

Fune: And my heart, it is -----

Yoshi: Full of longing.

Reciting: Her only wish Is to let the noble young man
Stay there under her roof.

Yoshi: Well, my girl, -----.

Fune: Sir

Yoshi: Can I step in?

Reciting: Thus they go in,

Hand in hand.

The noble man

Taking care of Utena.

The girl O-Fune follows them with her eyes,

Fune: Well, well, shall I say he is handsome, or shall I say
he is charming? Once born as a girl, one may well wish
to marry such a gentleman.

By the way, the lady who is with him, what is she,

I wonder? She doesn't look to be his wife. Maybe his
sister. Shall I go and ask him? No, no, no. What shall
I do if he says: "This is my wife."

I wish she may be his sister.

Reciting: Young as she is,

She is so deep in sorrow

That anyone could tell

That she is worrying

Lord Yoshimine,

Coming out of his room---- ----.

Yoshi: I say, miss.

Fune: Aye, sir, what do you want me for?

Yoshi: It's a happy chance that I came to stay with you for to-night. Well, miss, my accompanying woman has got into a hysterical fit so that I am quite at a loss. She is now going to take a medicine. Will you give her some water?

Fune: Water? Certainly. You're always welcome.

Just wait a minute, please.

Well, sir, I have something to ask of you.

Yoshi: I'll do whatever you want me to, for you have kindly given us a night's lodging.

Fune: Thank you so much, sir. Will you please answer me just a question? Well, sir, the lady with you, is she your sister, or is she your wife?

Yoshi: She is my sister and has been rather weakly for a long while. We are on our way to the Kannon temple at Asakusa.

Fune: Is she really your sister?

Yoshi: Certainly she is.

Fune: I feel relieved now. You are quite welcome, sir.

Well, will you please ----- stay with us for ten days, twenty days, ten years, a hundred years. There is no one else but my father here in our house. And, if you are on your way to the Kannon temple, will you take me with you, please? And, is she really your sister? Why, you keep quite silent while I am speaking and speaking by myself. Just turn this side, please.

Reciting: The girl tries to cling

To the noble guest

From the right,

From the left

It's love; it's affection.

Lord Yoshimine, on the other hand

Seems rather perplexed.

(O-Fune gets a cup of tea ready for him.)

Yoshi: There is a saying: "Even a chance acquaintance is preordained"
My case is far more than that for I have asked for a knight's lodging. I should do anything for that, of course, but, as I am on travel, I can do nothing at my own will.

Reciting: So saying, he tries to go,

When the girl checks him saying:

Fune: It's too cruel of you. I am so deeply in love.

Reciting: Though I have been brought up in rural districts,

Fune: I cannot help falling in love.

Reciting: It's your fate to be loved by me.

A flower may open even in shades,

Clear water may run among mossy rocks.

Say just in one word

That you will grant my wishes.

Fune: Please do, sir.

Reciting: She clings to his sleeves

Looking as a flower.

Ready to fall

At the slightest breeze.

Lord Yoshimine,

Unable to decline

Hesitates in answering.

Yoshi: I don't, by any means, slight your feelings. I am really
much obliged for that. But, as I have a great duty to
perform, ----- Had I been free from duty, ---- -.

Fune: Would you grant my wishes?

Yoshi: I would fain do so,

Fune: How glad I feel.

Reciting: She stares at him

With infinite love in her eyes.

They look unseparable

Tied tight with the bond of love.

Just then a miracle took place there,

For the noble lord and the loving girl,

Both of them changed colours

And, shuddering and trembling,

They fall on the floor

Faint and senseless.

Utena, frightened at the noise

Comes hurrying in

To see what has happened.

(Yoshimine and O-Fune fall down on the floor while an
ominous music accompanies their actions.)

Utena (coming in): Why, what has happened? What's wrong with you, my lord?

(She tries to let them drink some water.)

Utena: I say, my lord. My Lord Yoshimine. Ah, I know now. This must be the case: my lord took fancy to the girl's loveliness and so he got cursed with the sacred flag.

Reciting: She washes her hands.

And then takes the flag

Piously out of Lord Yoshimine's pocket.

And lo.

There came to their senses

The two senseless.

(Meanwhile Rokuzo comes in through the gate and stands eavesdropping.)

Yoshimine (coming to his senses): Why, you're Utena.

Utena: Have you come to your senses, my lord?

Yoshi: Well, when I stepped into this house, I was rather surprised to find the interior too fine and rich for the master's occupation. And there are many more uncertain points as to this household. I meant to ^Csent out the secret taking advantage of the girl's affection. And as I approached her, this miraculous thing happened to us. There must be something significant about this house.

Reciting: He takes up the flag, saying.

Yoshimine: Come on, Utena.

Reciting: And they enters the inner rooms.

Rokuzo, seeing this,

Takes up his sword

And gets ready for going out.

Rokuzo: He must be a Nitta refugee to have got that flag. I shall just strike the signal-fire.

Recital: He is on the point of running out

When he stops short

Saying to himself:

Rokuzo (on the stage-passage): If I strike the fire, followers of Lord Takeda will come and take him with them. The prize will be partly mine. Shall I do so?

Reciting: Yes, yes, I shall.

Rokuzo: No, that won't do. I shall just forestall others and give them the go by. That's it. I'll step into his room. Wait a moment. Defeated as he is, he is a warrior all the same. I may be easily beaten by him. If beaten, I shall be sacked, the prize will be given to Boss, and Miss O-Fune won't be mine, either. Ah, then, I shall lose everything. What shall I do? Well, well, I'm desperate now.

Reciting: He runs into the guest's room

Nodding to himself.

The girl O-Fune

Stands in his way

Trying to block the doorway.

Fune: Wait, Rokuzo, what are you going to do with our quest?

Rokuzo: That's clear enough. He's got the Nitta flag. He must be a Nitta refugee for a certainty. I shall just take him prisoner and get the whole prize for me.

Reciting: He rushes out and looks uncheckable.

The girl, anxious to help his lover,

Does her best to make him stop.

Fune: Wait, Rokuzo, wait. He's a warrior, you know. If you should fail in fighting and be killed by him, what would become of me, left alone?

Roku: But -----

Fune: Just a minute. Now, Rokuzo.

Roku: What's it?

Fune: Listen to me just for a while. What you say quite stands reason. How should I interfere with your good luck? I like faithful people and detest faithless ones. I have wanted to get married to you after seeing that you are truthful. Well, now that I've seen you reluctant to listen to my reason, I clearly know that your love for me has been untrue.

Reciting: Thus reasoned down, Rokuzo feels dejected.

Rokuzo: Why, what do you say? You say you will marry me after seeing that I am truthful?

Oh, no, no, you are going to check me because you are in love with that man. No, no. I won't listen to you.

Reciting: And he makes to the door. When O-Fune stops him.

Fune: Now, Rokuzo, do whatever you would.

Reciting: And she looks so cross. That the man gets quite perplexed.

Roku: That's fine. Really splendid. You really mean to marry me if I am true in love, eh?

Reciting: Was it so?

Fune: If I marry you, you and my father will be father and son.

Roku: Of course we shall.

Fune: It's insincere between father and son to give the go by to each other. You'd better wait for him to come back and talk over it with him.

Reciting: Rokuzo, quite taken in -----.

Roku: I've never been so happy as this in these many years. I'll just go to the headman's for Boss. Take care and never fail in watching them.

Fune: All right. Be at ease.

Roku: Well, take care of the house during my absence, Miss O-Fune, I mean, my wife O-Fune.

Fune: Well, dear -----?

Roku: Take care

Fune: I'll be anxious if you are long in coming back.

Roku: You are so ready to be jealous.

Reciting: Proud and triumphant, Rokuzo goes out of the house.

(O-Fune closes and locks the gate looking significant.)

The girl, left alone,

Looks as helpless

As a drifting boat cast on the sea.

Fune: Shall I tell him all the fact? Oh, no, no.

Reciting: That will lead father. Into much trouble, I'm sure.

But if I leave the matter alone, Well, then, Lord

Yoshimine whom I love. Will be in great danger:

Fune: Well, what shall I do?

Reciting: What shall I do?

Familial duty and wifely virtue. Both of them are urgent now.

(O-Fune puts out the light and goes into the inner rooms.)

Reciting: Thus a long time passed away,

And now it is in the midnight. When bells of churches
And the brook beside the house.

Sounds rutling and rippling. Out of the bush beside the
gate. There appears Tombei, the best, And blows his
whistle as a signal.

(Hokuzō comes in)

Hoku: How are the matters, Boss?

Tombei: Come here (Whispers) Now, Hokuzō, take care and be noiseless,
lest my daughter should awake. I'll go alone. You'll be
here and catch him if he runs out of the room.

Hoku: All right. (Hides himself)

Reciting: Tombei tries and tries. To open the gate,
But all in vain. At last he breaks it
And violates into the house. He is surprised to find the
inside. As dark as pitch. For all the lights
Have been put out. He goes on stealthily
Through the rooms of his own house. And at last he reaches.
The room of his guest.

(The stage goes round.)

(Upstairs of Tombei's house. A big drum in the right-
hand stage. The river is seen through the window up-stage.)

Reciting: Tombei goes on stealthily. While saying to himself:
"He is a member of the Hitta family, And must be mighty
and strong." So thinking, he unsheathes his dagger
And approaches the guest's bed.

Then is heard a cry of death. The ferryman, triumphant,
Opens the window. And behold. There he found in the moon-
light. His daughter O-Fune. Seriously and fatally
wounded.

Tombei: Why, you're C-Fune.

Reciting: And he stood stock-still
quite frightened and amazed

Tombei: Here is Yoshimine and the woman? Come, tell me the truth.

Reciting: He cries, furious with anger. The daughter, low in
spirit, looks at her father resentfully.

Fune: I say, Father.

Tombei: What's it?

Fune: Humankind is greedy, I know. But you're the most greedy
of them all; for you are selfish through and through and
don't care a bit what happens to others. You're ready to
kill a sinless man for love of money. You plotted against
lord Yoshioki.

Reciting: The sin of the father. Is visited on the child. Not
knowing him to be Lord Yoshimine -----.

Fune: I thought him attractive.

Reciting: And as soon as I approached him, The sacred flag, cast,
the evil spell on us. It was the late / Lord Yoshioki.
That haunted and cursed us. And there we fell faint.

Fune: Well, after turning Rokuzo away, we talked and talked over
the matter. At last my lord confided me that it was you
that had put his brother to death. He said that though he
could not take me to wife in this world because my father
was his brother's slaughter, he would fain do so in the
next world if I gave him the proof that I didn't take
part in your intrigue.

I was quite contented with his words and made him escape
before the moon rose.

Reciting: At this Tombei fretted and fumed. And taking his
daughter by her collar,

Tombei: You're so audacious a girl to lose your heart to a stranger and to confide him with your father's secret. You undutiful, you impious!

Reciting: He threw out his first in the air
And struck heavily his wounded daughter.
The girl, at her last gasp ----- ,

Fune: Do you know what it is to be undutiful or impious?

Tombei: Of course I do.

Fune: You have been always gambling and plotting intrigues. Moreover, you're now going to kill the lover of your only daughter and even going to kill her by your own hand. It's too much. It's too mean.

Reciting: I don't regret to die now. But I am anxious about your conduct.

Tombei: Don't talk such nonsense. I'll lose my countenance if the refugee should escape from this village. I --- shall have to go to Lord Takezawa's.

Reciting: The daughter checks him. As he tries to go to inform.

Fune: Wait, wait, wait, father. Won't you listen to me however hard I may ask? I wish Mother were alive.

Reciting: Now that I know that I am destined. Not to be able to get married. To my dear Lord Yoshimine, I feel more and more. Attached to him. Were I killed by your hand,

Fune: It will be an evidence enough to prove that I have not taken part in your evil plan. I am glad of it.

Reciting: "If you feel the least bit of love. For me, your daughter, Please save and spare his life".
(She clings close to him.)

Tombei: It's my nature to be stubborn. I must keep my honour by fulfilling my promise.

Reciting: And he struck the signal fire. Which had been prepared before.

(Tombei makes to the main stage. O-Fune tries to check him. At last the father runs into stage, his sword on his shoulder.)

Reciting: O-Fune, left alone, Is quite at her wit's end.

"~~Why~~ If father sued for him. How could he escape from here? What shall I do, I wonder?" And she wrung her wounded body.

"I wish I had pair of wings. So that I might go and tell him To hurry on his steps". And she felt quite at a loss. When she noticed the big drum.

Fune: Oh, that's it. When the drum sounds, the villagers will think that he has been captured and will raise the watchin ~~xxx~~ siege.

Reciting: That is just what a woman should do. When she is deep in love with a man. And she goes up the staircase. Tottering and faltering so weakly. Just when she reached the drum. And took to beating. Rokuzo, the footman came out to check her.

Roku: That won't do. I mustn't let her beat.

Reciling: He tried and tried. To check her. But she, though heavily wounded, Forced out all her might And with the womanly will power. She reached the drum. And beat it with all her might.

Rokuzo tried to check her in his turn.

When the girl, anxious to attain her end, Takes his dagger and stabs him.

(They kill each other after a long struggle)

Reciting: Tombei, quite free from sorrow. Came drifting along in the boat.

(Just when Tombei reaches the middle of the stage, a white-feathered arrow comes flying and shoots Tombei on his breast.)

Reciting: How wondrous! How Fearful!

(He falls dead, when the curtain falls with the sound of the running river.)
